8th September 1928]

Civil Justice

Modification of the Court Fees Act.

*245 *Q.*—Mr. K. R. KARANT: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government intend appointing a committee as promised by his predecessor in his speech in the Council on 16th March 1927 (vide page 249, volume 35 of Council Proceedings) to consider the modification of the Court Fees Act, if so, when ;

(*b*) whether any such or similar proposals are before the Finance Committee or are intended to be placed before the said committee, if so, when ; and

(*c*) whether the Government have before them any proposals or intend taking any steps for the reduction of court fees?

A.—(*a*) There is no such intention at present.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) The recommendations of the Taxation Enquiry Committee for the amendment of the Court Fees Act are under consideration.

Mr. K. R. KARANT:—" May I ask why, while the predecessor of the present Law Member gave a definite undertaking that a committee would be appointed to consider the modification of the Court Fees Act, the Government now say that there is no such intention? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—" Because there has been correspondence on the subject between the Government of India and this Government."

Mr. K. R. KARANT:—" May I ask, with reference to the answer to clause (*c*), by whom the recommendations of the Taxation Enquiry Committee are under consideration? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—" As I said, it is under correspondence between the Government of India and the local Government."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA:—" If the correspondence is still going on, how can the hon. the Law Member now say that the intention of appointing a committee has been abandoned? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—" 'There is no such intention *at present.*' Because the intention can come into existence only after the correspondence is finished."

Sale of court-fee stamps up to Rs. 100 through stamp vendors.

*246 *Q.*—Mr. K. R. KARANT: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state what steps the Government have taken or intend taking with reference to the cut in the Demand for Stamps during the last budget debate to provide for sale of court-fee stamps up to Rs. 100 through stamp vendors?

A.—The Government have called for a report on the subject from the Board of Revenue.